

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 178040
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 H-01 INR-10 INRE-00
PA-01 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 HA-05 SSO-00 /049 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/B MR. TOYRYLA:LEE
APPROVED BY ARA/AND - MR. BARNEBEY
ARA/CEN - MR. MATTHEWS (PHONE)
-----021902 141759Z /50S

O 141514Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178040

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VE, CO, CR, BL

SUBJECT: FRAUD IN BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS

REF: LA PAZ 5531, 5533 (BEING REPEATED OTHER POSTS)

1. BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS OF JULY 9 FOR PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS
HAVE RESULTED IN WIDESPREAD ALLEGATIONS BY BOLIVIAN POLI-
TICAL PARTIES AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS OF GOVERNMENT-IN-
SPIRED FRAUD IN SUPPORT OF CANDIDATE PEREDA. SEE REFTELS.

2. AS EVIDENCE OF FRAUD HAS MOUNTED, WE HAVE BECOME CON-
CERNED AND ON JULY 13 POSTED FOLLOWING STATEMENT:
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QUOTE: ON JULY 9 BOLIVIA WENT TO THE POLLS FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN 12 YEARS TO ELECT A PRESIDENT AND A CONGRESS.
ALTHOUGH THE VOTE COUNT IS FAR FROM COMPLETE, THERE HAVE
BEEN NUMEROUS ALLEGATIONS BY INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS AND
THE BOLIVIAN POLITICAL PARTIES OF IRREGULARITIES IN THE
VOTING AND IN THE COUNT. WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT

THESE REPORTED IRREGULARITIES, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE REFERRED TO THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COURT. THE COURT HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEALING WITH IRREGULARITIES AND WE AWAIT ITS ACTIONS. END QUOTE.

3. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING VIEWS OF FOREIGN MINISTER/PRESIDENT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN BOLIVIA - ALSO WHETHER COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA AND PANAMA ARE CONSIDERING A PUBLIC STATEMENT OF CONCERN OVER BOLIVIAN SITUATION. SINCE VENEZUELA HAS ALREADY ISSUED A STATEMENT, ONLY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH CARACAS WILL BE NECESSARY.

4. FYI. SITUATION IS REMINISCENT OF THAT RECENTLY IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. WE WOULD WELCOME SUPPORT BY OTHER COUNTRIES ALONG LINES OF OUR STATEMENT OF CONCERN.

5. FOR PANAMA. IN VIEW OF MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF PANAMA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, AND VENEZUELA IN PANAMA, REQUEST YOU ACT THROUGH PANAMANIAN OR DIRECTLY TO REACH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. IN VIEW OF VENEZUELAN REACTION, DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER CONSALVI SHOULD FOCUS ON EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS RATHER THAN A REQUEST FOR ACTION. CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH MS. ROBINSON, S/S-O.
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